CS 1064 – Introduction to Programming in Python

CRN: 12258
Instructor: Henry Monti (MCB 122)
Lecture Time/Location: MWF 12:20-1:10, SURGE 104C

Textbook and Other Resources

Course Website: http://moodle.cs.vt.edu

Textbook: The Practice of Computing Using Python, Second Edition, by William Punch and Richard Enbody. Addison-Wesley/Pearson 2012.

Other Materials: Computer required. You must bring your computer to class every day.

Course notes: Available on the website.

Assignments

Assignment	Weight	Date/Time
Homework Assignments and Quizzes	25%	Posted on course website
In-class exercises (pop quizzes)	5%	Posted on course website
Programming Projects	30%	Posted on course website
2 Midterm Exams	10% each	Feb. 20 and April 3 in class
Final Exam	20%	May 9 - 3:25PM - 5:25PM

Homework Assignments

There will be approximately 6-8 small homework assignments over the course of the semester. Most of these assignments will be electronically submitted programming exercises that guide you through the development of a small program that reinforces the concepts you've seen in lecture; however, some might come as other types of assignments, such as online quizzes.

All homework assignments and quizzes are **individual work**. The **lowest** homework grade of the semester for each student will be dropped.

In-Class Assignments

There may also be weekly or biweekly in-class programming exercises. These are very short coding assignments, almost like a pop quiz. As result, bringing your laptop to class every day is required. **You must also be in class to receive credit for these assignments, however these assignments are scored only for participation.**

In-class assignments are **individual work**. The **lowest** in-class assignment grade of the semester for each student will be dropped.

Programming Projects

There will be 4 larger programming projects in this course. These projects will require you to combine multiple concepts that you've learned to solve a larger, more interesting problem.

All programming assignments are **individual work** and will be submitted electronically. No programming assignment grades will be dropped.

Exam Policy

There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. If a student's score on the final exam is higher than his or her scores on a midterm, then I will substitute the final exam grade for **one** (the lowest) midterm.

Late Policy

All assignments will be due at 11:59pm on the day that they are due.

Homework assignments will not be accepted late.

Programming projects will be accepted up to **five days after the due date,** with a deduction of **10% for each day late.** (Submitting 15 minutes late is considered "one day late" just as submitting 23 hours late would be.)

I understand that you may have an occasional commitment that causes you to miss class time or time to work on the assignments. I am happy to work out an arrangement with you **if you come and see me ahead of time** and explain why you feel you might need an extension on an assignment. If I don't hear from you beforehand and then you come to me the day an assignment is due or later and ask for an extension, chances are I won't be as sympathetic.

Make sure to keep backups of all your work! Hardware failure or accidentally losing your code is not an allowable excuse to be granted an extension. A service like Dropbox is an easy, no-effort way to keep an online backup of your work, without having to do anything extra beyond keeping your files in a special folder.

Attendance

No attendance policy will be enforced, but it should be obvious that consistent attendance is highly recommended to stay focused and keep you moving forward. If you miss class, it is your responsibility and **yours alone** to make sure that you keep up with the material covered that day by checking the course website and/or finding out what was discussed by speaking to another student in the class. I will do my best to post any important announcements that I make in class on the website as well, but failing to be aware of an announcement because you missed class does not excuse you from any responsibility.

If a serious illness prevents you from taking a test, notify your instructor and provide a note from your physician or the Health Center. Excuses other than an illness on a test day must be requested through the Dean's office. No makeup tests will be given without a verified excuse.

Also, note that only the Dean's office can give permission for you to reschedule a final examination, and no makeup final will be given without the Dean's approval.

Grading

All assignments are graded on a standard 10-point scale. 90% guarantees an A-, 80% a B-, and so forth. A curve may or may not be applied only to the final grades in the course entirely at my discretion.

If you wish to question the grade you received on an assignment or exam, you have **one week** after the grade was released (not one week after you look at it) to contact the instructor and discuss the issue. Do not wait until the end of the semester to bring grading issues to my attention.

Ethics

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical, professional manner, consistent with the Virginia Tech Honor Code. All homework assignments, programming projects, tests, and exams should be done on an individual basis and should not be accomplished with any help other than the course instructor, the course TAs, and ACM or UPE tutors.

Any writing or discussion of program source code must adhere to the limits expressed above. Examples of honor code violations include:

- Working with another student to derive a common program or solution to a programming assignment or project.
- Discussing the details required to solve a programming task. You may not share solutions.
- Copying source code in whole or part from someone else, with or without their knowledge or consent.
- Editing computer generated output to achieve apparently correct results.
- Taking another person's printout from a lab printer, trashcan, etc.

Note that all electronic work submitted for this course is archived and subjected to automatic plagiarism detection and cheating analysis.

Backup Policies

Students are responsible for making backup copies of all their work in this course. Loss of work due to hard drive failure is **NOT** an acceptable excuse. Backup copies of files on the same hard drive are not backup copies. Backup copies of files on second hard drives are also risky. Backup copies should be maintained on two separate distinct storage mediums, (e.g., hard drives and floppies).

Backup copies should be maintained until after the end of the term and students have received their course grade. (The Army lives by triplicate for a reason.)

Remember: Computer systems are mechanical devices. Systems fail. Plan for it. It is inevitable!